

Serial No.:  
Attorney Docket No.: 2000-0225  
Amendment

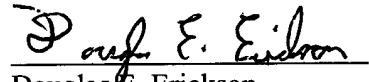
REMARKS

The canceled claims were allowed in the parent application. Support for the actuator language of amended claims 1 and 22 and new claim 23 is found in the specification (e.g., page 4, lines 19-27). Claim 21 has been amended to correct claim dependency.

The examiner has previously rejected or would reject claims 1, 2, 12 and 22-23 as being anticipated by Takemura. Applicants argue that these claims are now patentable over Takemura because they require the supports to be adapted to being pivoted by an actuator (which is not a printed sheet or sheets) or require at least one such actuator operatively connected to the supports to pivot the supports to support and release only one printed sheet at a time. Takemura does not teach, suggest or describe supports adapted to being pivoted by an actuator (which is not a printed sheet or sheets) between a support position and a release position. Takemura does not teach, suggest or describe at least one such actuator operatively connected to the supports to pivot the supports to support and release only one printed sheet at a time. An advantage of applicants' claimed design is that only the supports of applicants' claimed design can hold a printed page or printed sheet above the exit tray to allow time for the ink to dry on the previously printed page or sheet lying on top in the exit tray (see the specification, page 2, lines 13-15). The supports of Takemura cannot do this.

Early examination of the continuation application as amended by the Preliminary Amendment is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Douglas E. Erickson  
Reg. No. 29,530

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THOMPSON HINE LIP  
2000 Courthouse Plaza NE  
10 West Second Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402-1758  
(937) 443-6814

310326